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18	IN RE SUNPOWER SECURITIES	Case No. CV 09-5473-RS (JSC)
19	LITIGATION	(Consolidated)
20		CLASS ACTION
21		PLAINTIFFS' REPLY IN SUPPORT OF
		MOTION TO COMPEL PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS RESPONSIVE TO
22		FIRST SET OF DOCUMENT REQUESTS
23		Lada a Hananda Lagaratina Casti Cada
24		Judge: Honorable Jacqueline Scott Corley Date: October 4, 2012
24		Time: 9:00 am
25		Courtroom: 7, 15th Floor
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	I.	INTR	ODUCTION1
3	II.	ARGI	UMENT3
4 5		A.	Plaintiffs' Proposed Relevant Time Period Is Reasonably Calculated to Lead to Discovery of Admissible Evidence
6 7			Documents Created Post-April 2007 Are Relevant and     Discoverable Under Rule 26
8			2. Information Created Through June 30, 2010 Is Relevant
9 10		B.	Defendants' Proposed Custodial Limitations Are Contrary to Rule 26 and Judge Seeborg's Prior Ruling
11			The Court Has Already Rejected Defendants' Attempt to Limit Discovery to a Few Executives
12 13			2. Defendants' Custodial Limitations Are Contrary to Rule 26
14 15		C.	Defendants' Manufactured "Burden" Argument Is Baseless and Is Outweighed by the Relevance of the Requested Information
16 17		D.	The Individual Requests Seek Discoverable Information
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			

### 1 TABLE OF AUTHORITIES 2 Page(s) 3 **CASES** 4 Curry v. Hansen Med., Inc., 5 In re Daou Sys., Inc., Sec. Litig., 6 411 F.3d 1006, 1015 (9th Cir. 2005)......9 7 DirectTV, Inc. v. Trone, 8 9 Glazer Capital Mgmt., L.P. v. Magistri, 10 *In re Google Litig.*, 11 12 Greer v. Elec. Arts, Inc., 13 In re IBM Corp. Sec. Litig., 14 15 Kaplan v. Rose, 16 49 F.3d 1363 (9th Cir. 1994)......5 17 La. Pac. Corp. v. Money Mkt. 1 Institutional Inv. Dealer, 18 Lawrence E. Jaffe Pension Plan v. Household Int'l, Inc., 19 20 Local Union No. 490 v. Kirkhill Rubber Co.. 21 22 In re Marsh & McLennan Cos., Inc. Sec. Litig., 23 Minneapolis Firefighters' Relief Ass'n v. Medtronic, Inc., 24 25 Nairobi Holdings Ltd. v. Brown Bros. Harriman & Co., 26 27 In re New Century, 28

# Case3:09-cv-05473-RS Document215 Filed09/14/12 Page4 of 24

1 2	Oppenheimer Fund, Inc. v. Sanders, 437 U.S. 340, 351 (1978)
3	Plichta v. SunPower Corp., 790 F. Supp. 2d 1012 (N.D. Cal. 2011)
5	Regan-Touhy v. Walgreen Co.,       526 F.3d 641 (10th Cir. 2008)
6 7	In re SunPower Sec. Litig., 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 152920 (N.D. Cal. 2011)
8	Tellabs, Inc. v. Makor Issues & Rights, Ltd., 551 U.S. 308 (2007)
9 10	Valentini v. Citigroup, Inc., 837 F. Supp. 2d 304 (S.D.N.Y. 2011)
11 12	Vallabharpurapu v. Burger King Corp., 276 F.R.D. 611 (N.D. Cal. 2011)
13	In re VeriFone Holding, Inc. Sec. Litig., 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24964 (N.D. Cal. 2011)11
14	STATUTES
15	§10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
16	OTHER AUTHORITIES
17 18	Fed. R. Civ. P. 26
10	
19	Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6)6
19 20	Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6)
20	Fed. R. Evid. 401(a)-(b)
20 21	Fed. R. Evid. 401(a)-(b)
20 21 22	Fed. R. Evid. 401(a)-(b)
<ul><li>20</li><li>21</li><li>22</li><li>23</li></ul>	Fed. R. Evid. 401(a)-(b)
20 21 22 23 24	Fed. R. Evid. 401(a)-(b)
20 21 22 23 24 25	Fed. R. Evid. 401(a)-(b)

## I. INTRODUCTION

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Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel establishes the relevance, discoverability and proportionality of two primary categories of disputed information.<sup>1</sup> First, Plaintiffs demonstrate that their proposed time period for discovery, April 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010 (the "Relevant Time Period"), is reasonably calculated to lead to discovery of admissible evidence. Mot. at 9-13. With respect to the April 2007 start date, the Complaint explicitly refers to relevant events and information in 2007 directly related to Plaintiffs' claims. Id. at 11-13. Plaintiffs also provide direct and uncontroverted evidence showing that, in 2007 (and even as early as 2006), SunPower had engaged in the *same* type of accounting improprieties, in some of the same accounts, while disregarding the same inadequate internal controls that ultimately led to SunPower's multi-million dollar restatement (the "Restatement"). Id. at 13-15. Plaintiffs' proposed end date of June 30, 2010 captures documents relating to a written inquiry from the SEC that was publicly filed on *June 1*, 2010, to which SunPower formally responded on July 2, 2010. The SEC's letter requested information regarding SunPower's accounting misconduct during the Class Period. Accordingly, both the April 1, 2007 start date and the June 30, 2010 end date are narrowly tailored to elicit evidence relevant to Plaintiffs' claims. *Id.* at 9-15.

Second, Plaintiffs' Motion establishes the relevance of a dozen disputed document requests and the impropriety of Defendants' attempt to limit certain categories of discovery to a small group of five to seven SunPower executives. *Id.* at 15-25. Defendants' custodial limitations are inconsistent with Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 ("Rule 26") and would exclude numerous important witnesses who undoubtedly possess relevant documents. Mot. at 16-17. Indeed, Judge Seeborg has already rejected Defendants' virtually identical strategy to limit discovery to a small group of SunPower executives. *Id.* at 4, 16; see also Dkt. No. 186 at 5-6. Now

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<sup>&</sup>quot;Mot." citations are to Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel Production of Documents Responsive to First Set of Document Requests (the "Motion"). "Peterson Decl." refers to the Declaration of Erik D. Peterson in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion. References to "Opp." or "Opposition" are to Defendants' Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion. Unless otherwise noted, "¶" references are to the operative Complaint (Dkt. No. 153), all emphasis is added and internal citations are omitted.

again, Defendants ask this Court to rely upon the same erroneous theory of scienter that ignores SunPower's *corporate scienter* and purports to limit the scope of culpable scienter and related discovery to the three Individual Defendants. *Id.* SunPower itself, however, remains a defendant in this case, and recent decisions from this District confirm that SunPower's scienter derives from traditional principles of *respondeat superior* and is not limited to three individuals' scienter. Defendants' Opposition inexplicably ignores Judge Seeborg's prior ruling rejecting their attempt to limit discovery to three officers. *See* §II.B.1, *infra*.

Defendants' other efforts to unreasonably curtail Plaintiffs' discovery are meritless. On relevance, Defendants seek to impose a standard that is more akin to the standards of proof and admissibility at trial. *See, e.g.*, Opp. at 7-8. Indeed, Defendants' 24-page brief does not contain a *single* reference, even in passing, to the applicable Rule 26 standard: whether the requested information is "*reasonably calculated* to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence." Rule 26(b)(1). Instead, Defendants appear to suggest that in order to obtain discovery, Plaintiffs must essentially *prove* that a requested document will itself directly *prove* the elements of Plaintiffs' claims, such as Defendants' scienter—an issue that will likely be the seminal issue *at trial*. This circular relevancy test does not comport with Rule 26 or this Court's discovery jurisprudence.

On the issue of burden, Defendants offer only speculative and wildly exaggerated cost "estimates" that are untethered to the realities and scope of discovery actually requested by Plaintiffs. *See* §II.C, *infra*. Rather than support their objections with a declaration from an ediscovery consultant or provide any hard sampling data (which is customary in these disputes), Defendants rely entirely on an unsupported hearsay declaration from litigation counsel (the "Song Declaration") that is based on multiple false premises, inaccurate assumptions and wholesale guesswork. *See* Dkt. No. 211; §II.C *infra*.

For example, according to Mr. Song, it will cost anywhere from \$49 million to \$144 million to comply with less than a dozen document requests. Defendants also contend that it will cost another \$9 million to \$21 million to produce documents for the eight-month period, April 2007 to January 1, 2008, and the 30 days in June 2010, for a grand total of up to \$165

million. Defendants provide no competent evidence to support these outlandish burden claims. To arrive at these figures, Defendants assume that the custodial files of more than 5,000 SunPower employees (*i.e.*, every employee at the Company) must be searched. Dkt. No. 211, ¶¶14-16. Plaintiffs, however, have genuinely sought to assist Defendants in identifying relevant custodians, and repeatedly informed Defendants that they need not search the files of every SunPower employee, including employees in subsidiaries or divisions that are not relevant to the issues in the case. Plaintiffs said as much in their opening Motion. Mot. at 15 n.11. Defendants' binary "all or nothing" approach to custodial discovery—either 5 or 5,000 custodians—is improper and ignores their obligations under the Federal Rules.

Finally, there is no undue burden in producing the requested documents because SunPower *already gathered, reviewed and assembled* millions of pages of documents from numerous relevant custodians as part of the Company's 2010 Restatement investigation, including information concerning SunPower's accounting improprieties and the falsified accounting entries dating back to 2006-2007 (*i.e.*, prior to the Class Period). Mot. at 18. In fact, SunPower disclosed to the SEC that it had interviewed or collected documents from at least 47 witnesses and gathered over a *terabyte* of electronic information in connection with its Restatement investigation. *Id.* (citing Peterson Decl., Ex. 23). Thus, SunPower has already incurred much of the cost of identifying, collecting and reviewing the documents sought here. Accordingly, Defendants cannot establish any undue burden that would outweigh the clear benefit and relevance of the requested information. Plaintiffs' Motion should be granted.

#### II. ARGUMENT

# A. Plaintiffs' Proposed Relevant Time Period Is Reasonably Calculated to Lead to Discovery of Admissible Evidence

"Discovery is not limited to issues raised by the pleadings, for discovery itself is designed to help define and clarify the issues." *Vallabharpurapu v. Burger King Corp.*, 276 F.R.D. 611, 615 (N.D. Cal. 2011) (Corley, J.) (quoting *Oppenheimer Fund, Inc. v. Sanders*, 437 U.S. 340, 351 (1978)). Indeed, "[p]laintiffs are entitled to discovery regarding their claims generally, not just the specific factual claims pled in their Complaint. Moreover, '[r]elevant

information need not be admissible at the trial if the discovery appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence." *Id.* (citing Rule 26(b)).

# 1. Documents Created Post-April 2007 Are Relevant and Discoverable Under Rule 26

Plaintiffs' Motion provides two types of information to support the discoverability of information beginning on April 1, 2007: (i) facts and allegations from the Complaint itself referring and relating to key 2007 events and information; and (ii) evidence revealing that SunPower engaged in the same type of accounting misstatements and suffered from similar internal control deficiencies in 2007 that eventually led to the Restatement. Mot. at 11-15. Plaintiffs provided ample legal authority holding that the Class Period does not define the temporal parameters for discovery. *Id.* at 9-11. Indeed, the appropriate time period is a fact-specific, case-by-case determination based on an assessment of the particular claims, defenses, subject matter and evidence provided. *Id.* 

Defendants' response on relevance offers several flawed arguments. First, they narrow the scope of the case to a singular sub-topic of the Restatement (certain of the "unsubstantiated accounting entries"), and assert that relevance is defined only by whether discovery will prove Defendants' knowledge on that single issue. Opp. at 9-10. This ignores that the Complaint alleges at least four principal categories of material misrepresentations and omissions, including: (i) SunPower's false financial results, which were not limited to the unsubstantiated accounting entries (¶¶144, 154, 164, 173, 183, 192, 201); (ii) SunPower's misleading financial guidance, projections and forecasts (¶¶144-45, 154-55, 164-65, 173-74, 183-84, 192-93, 201); (iii) Defendants' false Sarbanes-Oxley certifications and statements regarding the adequacy of SunPower's internal controls (¶¶142-44, 152-54, 161, 163-64, 170-73, 181-83, 190-92, 199-201); and (iv) Defendants' false statements regarding the Company's financial condition, its success in reducing costs, and the purported *reasons* for, and source of, SunPower's increasing gross margin and cost reductions despite increasing price competition from lower-cost solar manufacturers in China (¶¶71, 80, 108-09, 112, 114, 138-140, 147, 149, 151, 154, 156-58, 160, 165-66, 169, 173-76, 180, 183-84, 187, 189, 192). Judge Seeborg denied Defendants' motion

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to dismiss these categories of actionable misstatements and allowed discovery to proceed on all statements. See Plichta v. SunPower Corp., 790 F. Supp. 2d 1012 (N.D. Cal. 2011).

Defendants largely ignore three of the four categories of false statements in their relevance analysis. For example, Defendants fail to address that SunPower's financial budgets, forecasts and cost reduction plans for fiscal year 2008 were created in 2007 during SunPower's financial planning stage for 2008. Mot. at 12. Accordingly, those documents are relevant to whether SunPower's 2008 forecasts had a "reasonable basis" and/or Defendants were aware of facts "tending seriously to undermine" those projections. See Kaplan v. Rose, 49 F.3d 1363, 1375 (9th Cir. 1994). Instead, Defendants suggest that information is discoverable only if it directly reflects information created in 2008 and 2009 that was actually known to Defendants regarding a single false accounting issue underlying the Restatement, i.e., Category No. 1 above. Opp. at 9-10. Defendants also assert that because there are no "false or misleading statements" in 2007, and the Complaint "does not challenge any statements" or "actionable misconduct in 2007," that information is entirely immune from discovery. *Id.* This narrow interpretation of relevance misconstrues Rule 26 and applicable rules of evidence. The "Test for Relevant Evidence" is whether "it has any tendency to make a fact more or less probable than it would be without the evidence; and [] the fact is of consequence in determining the action." Fed. R. Evid. 401(a)-(b). Defendants' conclusory arguments on relevance (Opp. at 9-10) fail to apply or even acknowledge this standard.

In contrast, Plaintiffs' Motion cites not only allegations in the Complaint, but actual evidence demonstrating that documents created in 2007 are directly relevant and consequential to the parties' claims and defenses. For example, Plaintiffs cite information showing that the same type of accounting improprieties, in certain of the same accounts, involving the same inadequate internal controls that led to the Restatement were occurring in 2007. Mot. at 14-15. Not only does the evidence establish the existence of these issues in 2007 (which itself is relevant), it also shows that Defendants knew, at the time, about internal control issues discovered in 2007 that were similar to those that ultimately facilitated the 2008-2009 misstatements. Id. Yet, Defendants recklessly allowed those known internal control problems to linger into the Class Period and then attempted to blame the accounting fraud on the same deficient internal controls known years earlier. *Id.*; see also ¶133 (attributing false results to material internal control weaknesses). Defendants substantively ignore all but one of the cited documents, and relegate that response to a single footnote. Opp. at 10 n.8.<sup>2</sup>

Defendants also mischaracterize Plaintiffs' relevance argument, claiming that Plaintiffs contend that the documents "might show" Defendants' knowledge and reckless disregard of similar improprieties in 2007. Opp. at 9. In fact, the evidence already shows that such improprieties existed in 2007 and that SunPower had a pattern and practice of reckless accounting and disregard for deficient internal controls. Mot. at 13-14. Not only is such evidence "reasonably calculated" to lead to discovery of admissible evidence, it also is plainly admissible in its own right, something Defendants appear to concede. Opp. at 9-10 (ignoring Fed. R. Evid. 404(b)).<sup>3</sup>

Information from more than five to seven custodians is also patently relevant to Defendants' defenses—namely that rogue low-level employees were solely responsible for the fraud and Defendants had no knowledge of any misconduct. Mot. at 17-18. Defendants cannot rely on this defense while refusing to produce documents from those same low-level SunPower employees. Indeed, as Judge Seeborg previously observed: "That's where, frankly, things like Sarbanes-Oxley do make a difference to me, because that's where it's indicating you have a duty to know. You can't cloak yourself in 'I'm so senior I can't bother myself with these trivialities,' when you then are putting your name on the line and saying 'I tell you these are true and accurate.' You can't have it both ways." Declaration of Eli R. Greenstein in

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Defendants' response on that single document (Peterson Decl., Ex. 22) only serves to illustrate their flawed view of Rule 26. They assert that improper accounting controls for "stock-based compensation" are not relevant to the "challenged statements." Opp. at 10 n.8. On the contrary, false accounting for stock-based compensation is relevant to motive and shows a pattern of significant deficiencies in accounting, financial reporting and/or internal controls related to Defendants' Sarbanes-Oxley certifications. See ¶142-43.

The fact that Plaintiffs utilized a narrower time period for their Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) deposition notice (Opp. at 8) shows, if anything, that Plaintiffs are not "indiscriminate and oblivious to costs" (Opp. at 1), did not arbitrarily apply the longest possible time period to all discovery, and were careful to tailor their requests to the specific type of discovery tool utilized.

Support of Reply in Support of Plaintiff's Motion ("Greenstein Decl."), Ex. A at 18:5-12. Similarly, Defendants cannot have it both ways in discovery.<sup>4</sup>

Defendants' assertion that Plaintiffs do not "explain how" Defendants' knowledge of false accounting and inadequate internal controls in 2007 is relevant to their scienter in 2008 is meritless. Opp. at 9-10. To the contrary, Plaintiffs (and the authorities cited in their Motion) explained that Defendants' knowledge of pre-Class Period issues similar to the misconduct that led to the Restatement is relevant to falsity, materiality and scienter, including, *inter alia*: (i) whether Defendants had a reasonable basis for their false forecasts for 2008 (which were premised on false 2007 results) or were aware of facts that contradicted or undermined those forecasts; (ii) whether Defendants knew that SunPower's pattern of improper accounting in 2006 and 2007 made it more likely that the Company would misstate its financial results in 2008 and 2009; and (iii) whether Defendants were on notice of, and recklessly ignored, false accounting, red flags and deficiencies in accounting controls in 2007 and allowed those issues to continue unabated in 2008 and 2009 which ultimately facilitated the fraud at the Company. Mot. at 11-14. All of these issues are appropriately discoverable under Rule 26.<sup>5</sup>

Defendants' contention that SunPower's shifting of 85-90% of SunPower's personnel and property to the Philippines in 2007 has "no bearing" on the "accuracy of SunPower's accounting entries from 2008 or 2009" or on "any Defendants' knowledge" of those inaccuracies, is meritless and again misconstrues the proper test for discoverability. Opp. at 9. SunPower's increased reliance on the Philippines was part of Defendants' obsessive strategy to cut costs, at any cost, a topic that is directly relevant to Plaintiffs' claims. Mot. at 11. Similarly, Plaintiffs' allegations regarding the PowerLight acquisition are relevant to the same cost issues. Mot. at 13 n.10.

Defendants' assertion that they "have not found, and Plaintiffs have not cited, a single decision adopting a remotely similar period for discovery in a securities class action" is incorrect. Opp. at 1, 12. See Motion at 11 n.8; In re New Century, No. CV 07-0931 DDP (FMOx), slip op. at 3 (C.D. Cal. July 8, 2009) (Peterson Decl., Ex. 20) (ordering production of documents in securities class action beginning approximately 11 months prior to the class period and nine months after); see also Minneapolis Firefighters' Relief Ass'n v. Medtronic, Inc., No. 08-6324 (PAM/AJB), slip op. at 7-8 (D. Minn. Dec. 21, 2010) (Greenstein Decl., Ex. B) (relevant time period in a securities class action beginning almost two years prior to the class period and ending over a year after the class period). And while not a class action, Defendants' own authority, Nairobi Holdings Ltd. v. Brown Bros. Harriman & Co., 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4300 (S.D.N.Y. 2005), a securities case brought under §10(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, orders discovery beginning more than three and a half years before the alleged false statement. Id. at \*5-\*7.

# 2. Information Created Through June 30, 2010 Is Relevant

Defendants assert that "Plaintiffs offer no basis to suppose that the information in the July 2 letter [to the SEC] is not otherwise available in documents created before May 31." Opp. at 10-11. This is incorrect. The SEC's letter was not publicly filed until *June 1, 2010*. Mot. at 2 n.3. That letter expressly inquired about the Restatement and accounting issues that occurred *during* the Class Period. Peterson Decl., Ex. 5. SunPower's response to the SEC, which also discussed Class Period events and accounting misconduct, was not communicated until *July 2, 2010*. Peterson Decl., Ex. 6. Accordingly, the bulk of internal communications and evidence pertaining to Defendants' analysis of, and response to, the SEC's accounting inquiry necessarily took place during the 30-day window between June 1, 2010, and July 2, 2010. Defendants provide no legitimate basis to exclude this highly relevant evidence and there is no burden in extending the Relevant Time Period by only 30 days. *See* §II.C, *infra*.

# B. Defendants' Proposed Custodial Limitations Are Contrary to Rule 26 and Judge Seeborg's Prior Ruling

# 1. The Court Has Already Rejected Defendants' Attempt to Limit Discovery to a Few Executives

Defendants' Opposition is the mirror image of the argument Defendants previously made—and lost—before Judge Seeborg. Mot. at 4, 16. On February 16, 2012, Defendants devoted several pages of their portion of the Joint Case Management Conference Statement to arguing that: "Discovery in this case should be focused in the initial stage on the core issue of scienter;" "[w]hat remains of the case...hinges on whether the SunPower officers who exercised 'ultimate authority' over the Company's Class Period statements...had 'knowledge of the underlying falsity' of those statements when they were made;" and "[d]iscovery should focus on this core issue first, before the parties and the Court expend resources on ancillary issues." See Dkt. No. 186 at 5-6. Defendants also asserted that "[i]f discovery confirms the conclusion of SunPower's Audit Committee – that 'executive management neither directed nor encouraged, nor was aware of, these activities and was not provided with accurate information concerning the unsubstantiated entries' – then Defendants will be entitled to summary judgment in their favor, eliminating the need for additional discovery." Id. at 6.

In response, Plaintiffs asserted, *inter alia*, that the elements of Plaintiffs' claims overlap and that Defendants' request that "discovery should be sequenced, with discovery on the issue of the scienter of the three Individual Defendants first, followed by discovery as to all other issues" was improper and unworkable. Dkt. No. 186 at 4 (citing In re Daou Sys., Inc., Sec. Litig., 411 F.3d 1006, 1015 (9th Cir. 2005) ("[F]alsity and scienter in private securities fraud cases are generally strongly inferred from the same set of facts, and the two requirements may be combined into a unitary inquiry under the PSLRA.")). Plaintiffs also noted that "[t]here is simply no way to conduct discovery or litigation solely on scienter for the three Individual Defendants without significant judicial oversight of deposition and other fact discovery" and "Defendants' plan overlooks that SunPower's scienter is also at issue and that, despite the Restatement, Defendants claim that Lead Plaintiffs will be unable to prove falsity." Dkt. No. 186 at 4. Accordingly, "[s]equenced discovery will therefore be needlessly duplicative as witnesses who have knowledge regarding scienter, falsity and materiality would have to be deposed more than once under Defendants' proposed discovery plan." Id. At the February 23, 2012 Case Management Conference, Judge Seeborg rejected Defendants' arguments as unworkable and instructed the parties to submit a discovery schedule for all merits discovery. Compare id. at 5-9, with Dkt. No. 189. Remarkably, Defendants' Opposition completely ignores this previous record. Instead,

Remarkably, Defendants' Opposition completely ignores this previous record. Instead, Defendants offer the same theory, using the same arguments, that the only discoverable scienter issue in the case is the knowledge of a few SunPower executive "speakers." Opp. at 9-10. This flawed theory of corporate scienter has been rejected by numerous Courts, including, most recently, by the new Chief Judge of this Court who sustained scienter claims against both a *non-speaking* Senior Vice President as well as the corporate defendant itself, based upon the wrongful acts and scienter of the non-speaker which were imputed to the company under the doctrine of *respondeat superior*. Mot. at 1 n.1 (citing *Curry v. Hansen Med., Inc.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 112449, at \*36-\*37 (N.D. Cal. 2012) (Wilken, J.); *see also*, Mot. at 18; Dkt. No.

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162 at 15-17 & nn.18-19 (collecting corporate scienter authorities).<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, Defendants made the same restrictive corporate scienter argument in their last motion to dismiss such that Judge Seeborg clearly was well-versed on the topic at the time he declined Defendants' "speakers" discovery requirement. Defendants' clever attempt to repackage the same arguments should be rejected.

# 2. Defendants' Custodial Limitations Are Contrary to Rule 26

Plaintiffs' Motion provides numerous examples of relevant SunPower accounting departments, finance divisions, witnesses and personnel that would be excluded from Defendants' custodian limitations. Mot. at 16-17. Defendants' Opposition cherry-picks a few of the most remote custodians they could find from the *sampling* of 182 custodians provided by Plaintiffs. Opp. at 15. This strategy not only ignores the substantive reason for providing the list in the first place (to illustrate the prejudicial effect of Defendants' custodial limitations), it also ignores more than 95% of the listed custodians. Notably, Defendants did not even *attempt* to justify excluding 17 of the 24 individuals cited in *Defendants' own initial disclosures*. Mot. at 4. Defendants also failed to explain the exclusion of personnel expressly identified as being involved in the fraud and later terminated for "unethical activities." *Id.* at 16. There is no conceivable justification for excluding such indisputably relevant custodians.

Defendants' contention that Plaintiffs' requests require a search of 5,000 employees is inaccurate. Indeed, after purportedly spending thousands of attorney hours on the Restatement investigation, Defendants have likely narrowed the realm of relevant custodians to a more manageable number that can provide a starting point for this case. Notably, however, although the Opposition variously claims Defendants have produced documents from "numerous

Defendants' assertion that the non-speaking Vice President in *Hansen* was alleged to be an "officer" is of no moment. Opp. at 16. Defendants' theory is that corporate scienter may *only* be derived from a "speaker," a legal construct that Judge Wilken rejected by holding that acts and scienter of the non-speaking defendant were imputed to the company. *Hansen*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 112449, at \*36-\*37.

Plaintiffs did not, as Defendants erroneously contend, assert that all 182 custodians "should be searched," or that discovery must include "foreign offices bearing no relation to the claims or defenses in this action." Opp. at 1, 15. The list was simply an illustration of the vast number of personnel and witnesses that would be *excluded* from Defendants' narrow search.

custodians" or "no fewer than 17 custodians" (Opp. at 21 n.16), they refuse to identify any of these custodians for Plaintiffs. Mot. at 18. This makes it nearly impossible for Plaintiffs to determine even a majority of the custodians who possess responsive documents.

Defendants' attempt to require Plaintiffs to guess, employee-by-employee, custodian-by-custodian and division-by-division, which custodians are likely to possess responsive documents—even though Defendants have a clear informational advantage and have expended thousands of hours and millions of dollars to identify such sources—cannot be squared with Defendants' discovery obligations. Defendants are not entitled to shift their responsibilities and burdens in responding to Rule 34 discovery to Plaintiffs, hoping Plaintiffs miss relevant custodians who possess responsive documents. This obstreperous hide-the-ball tactic violates both the letter and spirit of Rule 26 and Rule 34.

# C. Defendants' Manufactured "Burden" Argument Is Baseless and Is Outweighed by the Relevance of the Requested Information

Because Plaintiffs have established that the requested discovery "satisfies the relevancy requirements of Rule 26(b)(1)," "[i]n turn, the party opposing discovery has the burden of showing that discovery should not be allowed, and also has the burden of clarifying, explaining and supporting its objections with *competent evidence*." *La. Pac. Corp. v. Money Mkt. 1 Institutional Inv. Dealer*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 128531, at \*12-\*13 (N.D. Cal. 2012) (citing *DirectTV, Inc. v. Trone*, 209 F.R.D. 455, 458 (C.D. Cal. 2002)); *In re Google Litig.*, 2011 U.S.

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Defendants' reliance on Glazer Capital Mgmt., L.P. v. Magistri, 549 F.3d 736, 743, 745 (9th Cir. 2008) and In re VeriFone Holding, Inc. Sec. Litig., 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 24964 (N.D. Cal. 2011) is misplaced. Opp. at 15-16. Neither Glazer nor VeriFone involved admittedly "intentional" fraud involving senior financial management as demonstrated in this case. Moreover, Defendants concede that *Glazer* acknowledges the potential for demonstrating corporate scienter derived from the knowledge of non-officer employees. Opp. at 16 n.14. Judge Seeborg already considered both cases and sustained Plaintiffs' claims against SunPower itself. Indeed, the Court recognized that "there is no real question that the accounting entries were deliberately falsified." In re SunPower Sec. Litig., 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 152920, at \*16 (N.D. Cal. 2011). See also Hansen, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 112449, at \*36-\*37. Simply put, "there is no simple formula for how senior an employee must be in order to serve as a proxy for corporate scienter [and] courts have readily attributed the scienter of management-level employees to corporate defendants." *In re Marsh & McLennan Cos., Inc. Sec. Litig.*, 501 F. Supp. 2d 452, 481 (S.D.N.Y. 2006) (collecting cases); *accord Valentini v. Citigroup, Inc.*, 837 F. Supp. 2d 304, 316-17 (S.D.N.Y. 2011) ("The fact that, on multiple occasions, employees of both companies are alleged to have performed their professional duties in a consciously wrongful or reckless manner establishes a 'strong inference' of corporate scienter.").

Dist. LEXIS 9924, at \*19-\*20 (N.D. Cal. 2011) (requiring "concrete, particularized evidence regarding the undue burden of production"). Defendants have failed to present competent evidence of burden.

In fact, prior to their Opposition, Defendants made no attempt to satisfy their obligation to support, or even articulate, their burden objections with admissible evidence. Even now, Defendants' burden argument is based solely on the inadmissible Song Declaration from litigation counsel that relies on unsupported assumptions, vague speculation, inaccurate extrapolations of data, and hearsay accounts of what *others* at SunPower allegedly did to process and quantify its cost calculations. *See* Dkt. No. 211. This Declaration does not constitute "competent evidence." The spectacular costs, data estimates and generalized opinions regarding custodian searches are extrapolated from analysis apparently done by SunPower personnel or consultants who fail to offer any first-hand declarations of their own. *See* Dkt. No. 211, ¶¶12-13, 16. It is well-established that attorney declarations are improper where the attorney does not articulate facts from personal knowledge. *Local Union No. 490 v. Kirkhill Rubber Co.*, 367 F.2d 956, 958 (9th Cir. 1966) (rejecting "supporting affidavits [that] were made by an attorney and presented facts not within his personal knowledge").

For example, the Song Declaration states that, "[b]ased on the data *collected by SunPower*," counsel "[is] informed and believe[s]," there are an average of 316 responsive documents per custodian per month. *Id.*, ¶12. Similarly, the Declaration states that counsel is "informed and believe[s] that attorneys retained to review these documents can review" a certain number of documents per hour, and "[b]ased on our experience to date, I am informed and believe that the estimated cost to process data is between \$175 and \$330 per gigabyte of data." *Id.*, ¶¶13, 16. Counsel then apparently extrapolates from the unsupported "per custodian per month" number, multiplies that by a "per hour" review number and adds the sum to the "per gigabyte" processing number to arrive at the total cost amounts. *Id.*, ¶¶12, 14-15. Such a crude and unsupported cost estimate based on hearsay and vague generalizations does not constitute competent evidence to establish undue burden. *See La. Pac.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 128531, at \*12-\*13.

Defendants' Declaration also lacks indicia of reliability. For instance, Mr. Song's assertion that "there is an average of 316 [responsive] documents per custodian per month" (Dkt. No. 211, ¶12), provides no information on who the "custodians" are, what "month[s]" were searched, and whether the undisclosed custodians are indicative of the average custodian at SunPower. Most importantly, the Song Declaration does not provide the number of custodians used to derive the average hit rate or the proximity of the custodians to the events giving rise to the litigation, both of which are necessary to determine, for example, whether these custodians were closer to the fraud and thus would be expected to generate significantly more responsive documents than an "average" custodian. Since it is impossible to fairly evaluate the accuracy of Defendants' data, the overall cost totals are unreliable.

The Song Declaration also asserts that "it is not uncommon to find custodians with between 25 and 50 gigabytes of data." Dkt. No 211, ¶16. There is no support for this generalized opinion. No information is provided on the standard used to determine what is "uncommon," the type of custodians used as the baseline, or the actual custodians surveyed for this information. Thus, the Song Declaration is patently infirm, cannot be tested, and fails to provide a competent and reliable basis to establish undue burden. *See Google*, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 9924, at \*19-\*20.

Defendants' burden argument fails for an additional reason. SunPower has *already* undertaken as part of its Restatement investigation a search for many of the same facts and custodians relevant to the litigation. While Defendants seem to suggest they are starting from scratch, SunPower has already collected, processed and reviewed millions of pages of documents related to relevant events. *See* Mot. at 18 (citing Peterson Decl., Ex. 23). Indeed, in early 2010 SunPower represented to the SEC that it had collected and processed approximately a *terabyte* (1,000 gigabytes) of information from the files of at least 35 custodians, and at least 47 witnesses were either interviewed or produced documents, or both.

Case No. CV 09-5473-RS (JSC)

The Song Declaration's assertion that "documents will be manually reviewed...[f]or the majority of custodians" (Dkt. No. 211, ¶6) is contrary to Defendants' September 13, 2012

production of approximately 500,000 pages, which was *not* subjected to any manual review. *See* Greenstein Decl., Ex. C.

*Id.* Moreover, the Company's own investigation evaluated "unsubstantiated entries that occurred in fiscal 2006 through 2007" covering the entire pre-Class Period timeframe proposed by Plaintiffs. Peterson Decl., Ex. 6 at 12. As such, Defendants have already borne the expense of collecting and reviewing much of this discovery.

In sum, "beyond generic attorney argument, [Defendants] offer[] no concrete, particularized evidence regarding the undue burden of production of all requested documents." Google, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 9924, at \*19-\*20. Accordingly, Defendants have failed to make a "showing" consistent with Rule 26(b)(2) "that the information [Plaintiffs seek] is not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost." *Id.*; *Greer v. Elec. Arts, Inc.*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 12050, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. 2012). In any event, the relevance of Plaintiffs' discovery far outweighs any burden on Defendants. Mot. at 9-25.

## D. The Individual Requests Seek Discoverable Information

Request No. 5, 33, 35, 59: Defendants' Opposition to these Requests ignores case law and Plaintiffs' relevancy explanations (Mot. at 20-23), and instead attempts to apply an admissibility standard inconsistent with Rule 26(b)(2). *See* Opp. at 20 (attempting to limit discovery to allegations pled in the Complaint); *supra* at 2.

Defendants' burden cases are inapposite. In *In re IBM Corp. Sec. Litig.*, 1993 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 20041, at \*1-\*2 (S.D.N.Y. 1993), plaintiffs sought to expand discovery for the stated purpose of supplementing and/or amending their complaint, not because the discovery sought was related to their existing complaint. In *Lawrence E. Jaffe Pension Plan v. Household Int'l, Inc.*, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 96070, at \*14-\*15 (N.D. Ill. 2006), the court declined to compel discovery responses related to a "discredited legal theory." In contrast, the discovery Plaintiffs seek here is relevant to active claims and defenses. In *Regan-Touhy v. Walgreen Co.*, 526 F.3d 641, 649 (10th Cir. 2008), rather than tailoring discovery to the subject action as Plaintiffs have done here, the requesting party sought all e-mails, regardless of the subject, from an individual's e-mail account. Defendants' citation to *Tellabs, Inc. v. Makor Issues & Rights, Ltd.*, 551 U.S. 308 (2007) on "abusive" litigation, of course, omits that Defendants here have admitted to an "intentional" fraud and the "Court has long recognized that meritorious private actions to enforce federal antifraud securities laws are an essential supplement to criminal prosecutions and civil enforcement actions brought, respectively, by the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission." *Id.* at 313.

Defendants' request that any relief be "conditioned on Plaintiffs bearing a portion of the resulting data processing and production costs" is inappropriate and unfounded, especially in light of Defendants' unsupported cost claims and their refusal to provide the identities of even those custodians whose files Defendants already searched. Opp. at 12 n.11.

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Request Nos. 20, 40, 45: Defendants do not challenge relevance or defend their position that these Requests should be limited to a few custodians. Instead, as explained *supra*, they single out a few remote custodians and ignore the obvious (and in some cases admitted) relevance of 95% of the custodians Plaintiffs cited. *See* Opp. at 18, 21-22; Mot. at 16-17.

Request No. 27 and 56: Similar to Request Nos. 20, 40 and 45, Defendants' Opposition ignores most of the relevant custodians and both: (i) their responsibility to conduct a reasonable search for responsive documents under Rule 34; and (ii) Plaintiffs' repeated reminders that Defendants need not search 5,000 employees' files in irrelevant areas of the Company "or even in [ir]relevant countries." Mot. at 15 n.11.

Request No. 16(c): While Plaintiffs agreed to revise this Request at Defendants' urging, Defendants now quibble with its grammatical construction. Opp. at 17. Documents related to "compliance with or deviation from" SunPower's accounting and financial reporting policies and practices are indisputably relevant. Mot. at 24.

Request No. 36: Defendants' Opposition ignores that the requested documents are highly relevant to Defendants' oft-repeated defense that they did not closely monitor operations in the Philippines. *See* Mot. at 24-25. Defendants' claim that the Request would require the search of all 5,000 SunPower employees' files ignores that only a discrete group of SunPower employees attended and/or assisted in preparing materials for VAR meetings. Mot. at 24-25.

Request No. 64: Defendants' zero-sum approach to this Request is that either they will produce responsive documents from five individuals' files, or they have to produce documents from all 5,000 SunPower employees. Opp. at 23. As with their response to other Requests, this overly simplistic approach ignores Defendants' duty to conduct a reasonable search for responsive documents under Rule 34.

Dated: September 14, 2012 Respectfully submitted,

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# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on September 14, 2012, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the e-mail addresses denoted on the attached Electronic Mail Notice List.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on September 14, 2012.

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1 of 3 9/14/2012 3:06 PM

# Case3:09-cv-05473-RS Document215 Filed09/14/12 Page23 of 24

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2 of 3 9/14/2012 3:06 PM

# Case3:09-cv-05473-RS Document215 Filed09/14/12 Page24 of 24

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3 of 3 9/14/2012 3:06 PM